

**U.S. Department of Labor**

Assistant Secretary for  
Occupational Safety and Health  
Washington, D.C. 20210



APR 10 2002

Mr. Paul Boris  
Cinglar Wireless  
5565 Glenridge Connector, Suite 760  
Atlanta, GA 30342

Dear Mr. Boris:

I would like to solicit your assistance and cooperation in addressing a severe problem in the communications tower industry.

A report issued by the National Institute for Occupational Safety (NIOSH) states that the fatality rate of tower erectors is at least 10 times higher than the average fatality rate across all industries. In addition, NIOSH and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data indicate that more than 150 people have died in this industry over the last decade. Falls from towers under construction or during maintenance cause a majority of these fatalities.

On behalf of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), I request your commitment to join me in an effort to reduce the frequency of these serious accidents and fatalities associated with communications tower work.

Specifically, I ask that you seriously consider contracting only with tower erection companies that have excellent safety and health records and that you require in your contracts the following: (1) the erector comply with all OSHA requirements, and (2) all contracts with subcontractors contain the same provision. In addition, these contracts should contain strong language regarding the importance of good safety and health programs, employee training and education, and fall prevention and fall arrest systems.

Please join with me in taking on the challenge to eliminate communication tower accidents. If you have any questions about tower construction best practices or would like additional information, please contact Mr. Stewart Burkhammer in the Directorate of Construction at (202) 693-2020.

Sincerely,

John L. Henshaw